

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously amended) A method for tracking an asset with a radio frequency identification/radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) device and a plurality of marker tags, comprising:

    sending an interrogation signal from the RFID/RFDC device that has an interrogation range;

    receiving a first response signal to the interrogation signal from a first marker tag located at a first known location within the interrogation range;

    processing the first response signal with the RFID/RFDC device to determine a first identity of the first marker tag;

    receiving a second response signal to the interrogation signal from a second marker tag located at a second known location within the interrogation range;

    processing the second response signal with the RFID/RFDC device to determine a second identity of the second marker tag; and

    processing the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker to track the asset.

2. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the asset is a person.

3. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a cell phone.

4. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a personal data assistant.

5. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within pager.

6. (previously amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag are sent to a host computer system in response to a request from the host computer system and the host computer system conducts the processing of the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker to track the asset.

7. (previously amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein a third response signal to the interrogation signal is received from a third marker tag of the plurality of markers located at a third known location within the interrogation range, the method further comprising processing the first response signal and the third response signal to determine which of the first marker tag and the third marker tag is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

8. (previously amended) The method defined in claim 7 wherein the signal strength of the first response signal and third response signal received from the first marker tag and third marker tag are processed to determine which of the first marker tag and the third marker tag is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

9. (previously amended) A system for tracking an asset with a plurality of marker tags located at known locations, comprising:

a radio frequency identification/radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) device associated with the asset, wherein the RFID/RFDC device:

sends an interrogation signal that has an interrogation range;

receives a first response signal to the interrogation signal from a first marker tag located at a first known location within the interrogation range;

processes the first response signal to identify a first identity of the first marker tag;

receives a second response signal to the interrogation signal from a second marker tag located at a second known location within the interrogation range;

processes the second response signal to identify a second identity of the second marker tag; and

a host computer system that receives the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag from the RFID/RFDC device and determines the location of the RFID/RFDC device from the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag.

10. (original) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the asset is a person.

11. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a cell phone.

12. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a personal data assistant.

13. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a pager.

14. (previously amended) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the host computer system receives the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag from the RFID/RFDC device in response to a request from the host computer system.

15. (previously amended) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the RFID/RFDC device receives a third response signal from a third marker tag of the plurality of markers located at a third known location within the interrogation range in addition to receiving the first response signal from the first marker tag and wherein the RFID/RFDC device processes the received first response signal and third response signal to determine which of the first marker tag and third marker tag is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

16. (previously amended) The system defined in claim 15 wherein the signal strength of the first response signal and the third response signal received from the first marker tag and the third marker tag are processed to determine which of the first marker tag and the second marker tag is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously amended) A radio frequency identification (RFID) tag comprising:  
a flexible substrate;  
a first RFID antenna formed of the flexible substrate;  
a second RFID antenna formed of the flexible substrate; and  
a switching mechanism that is connected to the first RFID antenna and said second RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism is configured for activation by a remote signal emitted by a RFID/ radio frequency data communication (RFDC) device (RFID/RFDC device) and configured to switch from the first RFID antenna to the second RFID antenna in response to the remote signal.

24. (previously amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23 wherein the remote signal is an ultra-sonic signal.

25. (previously amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23 wherein the remote signal is a wireless signal.

26. (previously amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23, said RFID tag further comprising a third RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism that is connected to the third RFID antenna is configured to switch from the third RFID antenna to one of the first RFID antenna and the second RFID antenna in response to the remote signal emitted by the RFID/RFDC device.

27. (previously amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 26 wherein the first RFID antennas has a first maximum directionality, the second RFID antenna has a second maximum directionality, and third RFID antenna has a third maximum directionality and the first maximum directionality, second maximum directionality, and third maximum directionality are approximately orthogonal to each other.

28. (previously amended) A system for determining inventory in a section of a warehouse, comprising:

a plurality of locator tags associated with the inventory, the plurality of locator tags comprising:

a first flexible substrate;

a first radio frequency identification (RFID) antenna formed from the flexible substrate;

a second RFID antenna formed from the flexible substrate; and

a switching mechanism that is connected to the first RFID antenna and the second RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism is configured for activation by a wireless signal and configured to switch from the first RFID antenna to the second RFID antenna in response to the wireless signal;

a plurality of radio frequency identification/radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) devices located in the section of the warehouse, wherein the RFID/RFDC devices:

poll the plurality of locator tags by sending a first plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a first time;

receive a first plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags;

send the wireless signals to activate the switching mechanism;

process the first plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags to determine a first identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the first time;

poll the plurality of locator tags by sending a second plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a second time;

receive a second plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags;

process the second plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags to determine a second identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the second time; and

a host computer system that receives the first identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the first time and the second identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the second time to determines the inventory of the section of the warehouse.